REMARKS

In response to the action of May 28, 2008, applicants ask that all pending claims be allowed in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 13-16 and 19-20 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 8 and 13 are independent. Claims 1-4, 7-11, 13-16 and 19-20 have been amended to recite that user access is limited to attribute(s) specified in a permission object. Claims 5-6, 12 and 17-18 are being canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 13-16 and 19 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,578,037 (Wong). This rejection is rendered moot by the above amendments and cancellations, but Applicants are not conceding that the rejections have merit.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Wong does not describe or suggest all of the features recited by independent claims 1, 8 and 13 as amended. For example, and as described more fully below, Wong does not disclose the claimed attribute access group having one or more attributes of the multiple attributes associated with the data object type, the claimed attribute value group having one or more values associated with the one or more attributes in the attribute access group, the claimed determination that at least one attribute of the data object that the user seeks to access corresponds to an attribute of the attribute access group of the permission object, the claimed determination that a value of an attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is consistent with the value of the attribute of the attribute value group, or the claimed determination that the user is permitted to access the attribute sought to be accessed and not permitted to access any other of the multiple attributes not corresponding to the attribute of the attribute access group, as recited by claims 1 and 8.

Claim 1 recites a computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program configured to determine whether a user is permitted to access a business object when executing a software application of an enterprise information technology system. The medium includes one or more code segments configured to:

> use a permission object to determine whether a user associated with an entry in user information is permitted to access at least part of a data object associated with a data object type, wherein:
>
> the entry in the user information associates the user with a user affiliation,

the permission object identifies:

a user affiliation to which the permission object applies,

a data object type to which the permission object applies such that the data object type is associated with multiple attributes and each data object having the data object type is associated with the multiple attributes,

a permission attribute identifying one of the multiple attributes,

a permission value for the permission attribute,

an attribute access group having one or more attributes of the multiple attributes associated with the data object type, and

an attribute value group having one or more values associated with the one or more attributes in the attribute access group, and

wherein upon determination that (1) the user affiliation that is associated with the user is the same user affiliation as the user affiliation to which the permission object applies, (2) the data object type of the data object is the same data object type as the data object type to which the permission object applies, (3) a value of an attribute of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is consistent with the permission value of the permission attribute and the attribute corresponds to the permission attribute, (4) at least one attribute of the data object that the user seeks to access corresponds to an attribute of the attribute access group of the permission object, and (5) a value of an attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is consistent with the value of the attribute of the attribute value group, the user is permitted to access the attribute sought to be accessed and not permitted to access any other of the multiple attributes not corresponding to the attribute of the attribute access group.

Wong teaches "Access to the [entire] database schema object" (Wong [col. 4, line 32]). However, Wong does not limit access to "the attribute sought" while "not [permitting] access to any other of the multiple attributes not corresponding to the attribute of the attribute access group." Specifically, Wong does not teach: wherein upon determination that (4) at least one attribute of the data object that the user seeks to access corresponds to an attribute of the attribute access group of the permission object, and (5) a value of an attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is consistent with the value of the attribute of the attribute value group, the user is permitted to access the attribute sought to be accessed and not permitted to access any other of the multiple attributes not corresponding to the attribute of the attribute access group.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its pending dependent claims 2-4 and 7.

Independent claim 8, although different in scope from claim 1, recites features similar of those in claim 1 discussed above. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 and its dependent claims 9-11.

Independent claim 13 recites a computer system for determining whether a user is permitted to access at least part of a data object when executing a software application of an enterprise information technology system. The system includes a data repository for access control information for software and an executable software module. The data repository has data objects, where each data object (1) being associated with a data object type having multiple attributes, (2) having multiple attributes that are the same as the multiple attributes of the data object type to which the data object is associated, and (3) having a value associated with each attribute of the multiple attributes.

The data repository includes:

> user information that associates a user affiliation with a user of the software application, and
>
> permission information having multiple permission objects, each permission object identifying a user affiliation to which the permission object applies, a data object type to which the permission object applies, a permission attribute identifying one of the multiple attributes, a permission value for the permission attribute, and an attribute access group having one or more attributes of the multiple attributes associated with the data object type, and an attribute value group having one or more values associated with the one or more attributes in the attribute access group.

The executable software module causes:

> a comparison of a value of an attribute of the multiple attributes associated with a data object to which a user seeks to access such that the attribute corresponds to the permission attribute of a permission object with the permission value of the permission object,
>
> a comparison of at least one attribute of the data object that the user seeks to access such that the attribute corresponds to an attribute of the attribute access group of the permission object,
>
> a comparison of a value of an attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object such that the value is consistent with the value of the attribute of the attribute value group, and
>
> an indication that a user is permitted to access the attribute sought to be accessed and not permitted to access any other of the multiple attributes not

corresponding to the attribute of the attribute access group when (1) the value of the attribute associated with the data object is consistent with the permission value of the permission object, (2) at least one attribute of the data object that the user seeks to access corresponds to an attribute of the attribute access group of the permission object, and (3) a value of an attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is consistent with the value of the attribute of the attribute value group.

In contrast and as noted above, Wong teaches the use of a permission object (i.e., "policy group should limit a user's access to data" – Wong, Col. 6, lines 51-52) to determine whether a user associated with an entry in user information is permitted to access a data object associated with a data object type (Wong, objects 218 and 224 [figure 2]). However, Wong is silent on a comparison of at least one attribute of the data object that the user seeks to access such that the attribute corresponds to an attribute of the attribute access group of the permission object and a comparison of a value of an attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object such that the value is consistent with the value of the attribute of the attribute value group. Wong is further silent on the executable software module causing an indication that a user is permitted to access *the attribute sought to be accessed and not permitted to access any other of the multiple attributes not corresponding to the attribute of the attribute access group* when (1) the value of the attribute associated with the data object is consistent with the permission value of the permission object, *(2) at least one attribute of the data object that the user seeks to access corresponds to an attribute of the attribute access group of the permission object, and (3) a value of an attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is consistent with the value of the attribute of the attribute value group.* More specifically, instead of limiting access to "the attribute sought" and "not [permitting] access to any other of the multiple attributes not corresponding to the attribute of the attribute access group," Wong grants "Access to the [entire] database schema object" (Wong [col. 4, line 32]).

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 and its dependent claims 14-16.

Applicants further request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19 and 20 for the same reasons as cited above for independent claims 1, 8 and 13.

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The fee in the amount of $490 for the two-month extension of time is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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J Richard Soderberg
Reg. No. 43,352

Customer No. 32864
Fish & Richardson P.C.
3300 RBC Plaza
60 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 335-5070
Facsimile: (612) 288-9696